

King County Comprehensive Plan Update hearing to be held locally on April 3rd

By Kathleen Kear

Five meetings have been scheduled throughout King County (two of which have already taken place) in order for Councilmembers to gain more citizen input into the County's major update of the King County Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Larry Gossett, chair of the Council's Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee will be coming to the greater Maple Valley area to receive input from citizens concerning the Comprehensive Plan along with other Councilmembers on *Thursday, April 3*, at Tahoma Junior High, located at 25600 Summit Landsburg Road in Ravensdale. The meeting will start with an *Open House beginning at 6 p.m. followed by a public meeting from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.*

According to Gossett, the State Growth Management Act, which was passed in the early 1990s, is the framework wherein each of the counties throughout the State has to do regular growth management updates. Check of the updates helps to make sure that the plans are consistent with State law as well as local policies.

In King County, while technical adjustments are made year to year, only every four years are the land use policies looked into more deeply. At that time, decisions are made as to whether any policies need to be changed, modified, or done away with based on any State Growth Management and local policies.

Currently, the Executive has a set of seven framework policies that are new, which he is asking to be considered as proposed changes. These were released on March 1st in

his final recommendations. As the Council begins taking a look at these through the Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee, Gossett set scheduled hearings

throughout the County as well looks to pass the Committee's findings on to the full Council on approximately August 5th or 6th. From there, a public notice period will take place

lasting approximately one month, so that completion of the 2008 Comprehensive Plan Update will

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not be completed until the end of September or early October.

The Council will consider the Executive's recommendations as well as any information from the public. It will also make decisions that might include new proposals from Councilmembers. Right now, however, of most importance to the Council is hearing what citizens want – and they are very much looking forward to coming to the Maple Valley area to receive input on *Thursday, April 3*.

Public testimony will also be taken at regularly scheduled meetings of the Council's Growth Management and Natural Resources Committee throughout the spring and summer. These daytime meetings are held on Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m. in Council chambers on the 10th floor of the King County Courthouse in Seattle.

Citizens can read the Executive's proposed Comprehensive Plan Update and submit online testimony at: www.kingcounty.gov/council/comprehensive_plan.aspx